

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Mayor Brian Nolan at 7:30 PM. Mayor Nolan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silent meditation in memory of resident, Judith Dorey. Mayor Nolan stated that the meeting has been properly advertised in the December 31, 2004, issue of the Somerset Spectator and is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Mr. Richard Batchelder-present, Ms. Connie Hallman-present, Ms. Peggy Harris-present, Mr. George Morren-present, Mr. Jared Witt-present, Mr. Edward Zimmerman-present.

Mark Pack, Esq., was present on behalf of Borough Attorney Albert Cruz.

Absent: Borough Clerk Raymond Whitlock

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 7, 2005, was made by Zimmerman with a second by Hallman contingent upon the correction of typographical error "Iraq", under the public comments section. Roll call: Batchelder-aye, Hallman-aye, Harris-abstain, Morren-aye, Witt-aye, Zimmerman-aye.

Motion to approve the executive session minutes of February 7, 2005, was made by Hallman with a second by Morren. Roll call: Batchelder-aye, Hallman-aye, Harris-abstain, Morren-aye, Witt-aye, Zimmerman-aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clifford Moore of Skillman Ave. provided copies of surveys, deed, and Ordinance from 1984 in regard to the vacating of Skillman Ave. as requested at the last meeting. Copies were provided to Engineer Tanner for further review.

Hearing no other comments, Mayor Nolan closed the floor to the public.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Tanner summarized his report dated February 18, 2005, supplemental to the February 2, 2005, report previously submitted (copy of Engineer's report on file in the Clerk's Office). Engineer Tanner is in the process of scheduling a meeting with EPA and Borough officials regarding Princeton Gamma Tech. A preconstruction meeting has been held regarding the County Park project for which start up is planned for mid to end March. Suggestions for 2005 Local Aid Projects will be provided to Engineer Tanner for submission to the DOT by the April 15, 2005, deadline. Regarding the drainage problem on Montgomery Ave., it was agreed that Engineer Tanner would explore the option of raising the sidewalks to help alleviate the problem and whether remaining monies from the 2004 local aid grant may be used for this purpose. Motion was made by Morren with a second by Harris to have Engineer Tanner send a request to the State requesting the amount of funds that may be available to be applied to this project. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Letter dated February 2, 2005, from Blue Star Carting Inc. was provided to Mayor and Council members regarding the pending garbage removal contract. In response to questions raised by the potential bidder, it was agreed that an addendum be included in the bid packet to include the following recommendations by Mayor and Council: purchase of extra carts will be an option to the residents, white goods will be included in the garbage pick up, a Monday pick up day will be designated, and provisions will be made to include the pick up of two tires (no rims) on the bulk pick up. Engineer Tanner will send out the addendum next week.

In regard to the outstanding engineering voucher, Mr. Batchelder advised the monies have been appropriated in the 2005 budget to pay the outstanding voucher. A copy of 2005 park budget estimates was distributed and summarized by Engineer Tanner. It was recommended by Engineer Tanner that the maximum amount projected should be bonded.

STATE POLICE REPORT

None presented at this time.

TRANSFERS IN THE 2004 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mr. Batchelder moved the following transfers in the 2004 municipal budget. Motion to approve was made by Batchelder with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

To account #1124 Planning Expense	\$2490.00
From account #1133 Streets & Roads	\$2490.00

BILL LIST

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that sufficient funds are available to pay said vouchers,

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the following vouchers be approved for payment.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Morren with a second by Harris.

Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. (See Appendix 1 for Bill List)

SPECIAL BUSINESS

ARC of Somerset County – Mary Burke and Nancy Bowers of ARC of Somerset County appeared before Mayor and Council to discuss the possibility of parking lot expansion and possible donation of land from the Borough for same. Also present was Brian Griner, President, of the neighboring condominium homeowners association. Options were provided for parking expansion to either side of the existing ARC facility. It was agreed that the expansion to the left should be considered. Engineer Tanner will review the easement option in lieu of donation of the Borough property, Ms. Burke will consult with her landscape architect as to landscaping options and parking space layout, and Mr. Griner will confer with the homeowner's association members as to their location preference.

ORDINANCE #1 – 2005 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance #1 -2005 as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office and entitled, ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL" was read by title.

Mayor Nolan opened the hearing to the public. There being no questions or comments, the hearing was closed. Motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Morren with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

Contract for Local Public Health Services with South Brunswick Township –

Ms. Hallman advised the contract presented is the same as the prior year's contract with the exception of a 3% increase in costs. Motion to accept the contract for services for January 1 through December 31, 2005, at a cost of \$20,700.00 was made by Morren with a second by Hallman. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

RESOLUTION – Contract Award for New Ambulance – Resolution as filed in the Borough Clerk's Office and attached hereto as Appendix 2 was presented. Mayor and Council members were advised that rescue squad personnel are satisfied with the bid submitted. Motion to adopt the resolution to award the contract to Bay Head Investments Inc. in the amount of \$129,818.00 was made by Morren with a second by Harris. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

RESOLUTION – Interlocal Service Agreement with South Bound Brook Borough for Police Services – Resolution as filed in the Borough's Clerk Office and attached hereto as Appendix 3 was presented. Motion to adopt the resolution to execute the contract between the Borough of Rocky Hill and Borough of South Bound Brook for police services (same agreement to expire 2/28/06) was made by Morren with a second by Harris. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications were discussed and ordered filed. Mayor Nolan presented communications which were discussed and disseminated to the appropriate Committee representatives for disposition. Mayor Nolan reported that the annual report for the Court was received by the municipal division manager of the Courts complimenting the staff and operation of the Court and noting minor exceptions. Mr. Morren will consult with Judge Perkins regarding a response to the report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Nolan noted there is a fire company building committee meeting this week. He will attend along with Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Morren.

Rich Batchelder distributed copies of the 2004 capital budget, a summary of capital projects from 1994 to present, and a copy of the three year capital program for 2004-2006. Mr. Batchelder requested that suggestions for five year capital projects be forwarded to him within the next week. Also distributed by Mr. Batchelder was a draft resolution for the amendment of water and sewer rates and information regarding computer viruses. Mayor Nolan advised that RMA Bob Morrison would be attending the next meeting to distribute the budget in final form.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Nolan advised of a request from the NJ League of Municipalities for a resolution in support of the continuation of the TEA 21 Program. Motion to provide a resolution in support of the program was made by Harris with a second by Morren. Motion carried on roll call vote – all ayes. Mayor Nolan will send copies to all concerned.

In regard to a request for support of the property tax convention task force, a copy of the resolution adopted by Council last year in support of same will be provided to Mayor Nolan for dissemination.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hearing no comments/questions, the floor was closed to the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM was made by Batchelder with a second by Zimmerman. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths
Deputy Clerk